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ABSTRACT

Noting that the single best way to improve elementary education is to strengthen parents' role in it, this book describes aspects of parent-school interaction that could be used to improve the quality of children's education and academic success. The first chapter defines the ineffective ways in which most parents respond to public education and suggests that being interactive parents (parents who skillfully interact with school personnel to a degree and in a manner that has a powerful impact on their children's learning) is the most effective approach. The subsequent seven chapters focus on different actions of an interactive parent, such as: (1) establishing positive relationships with school personnel; (2) selecting the child's teacher; (3) choosing the child's curriculum; (4) setting standards for quality performance; (5) monitoring academic progress through review of tests, report cards, and standardized achievement test scores, and through parent-teacher conferences; (6) solving problems using techniques that range from prevention to negotiation to confrontation; and (7) considering alternatives within or outside of the public school system, if interactive parenting proves unsuccessful. Included in the book are four appendices: classroom observation guidelines, guidelines for interpreting standardized achievement test results, an interactive parents' annual calendar, and guidelines for setting standards for exceptional students. An extensive glossary of terms is provided. (BAC)

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